(b) whether Government have fixed any target in the last two years that this much people will be uplifted above the poverty line; and

(c) the achievements made during last two years separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Planning Commission estimates poverty at National and State level from the large sample survey on 'Household Consumer Expenditure' conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. According to the latest survey conducted in 1999-2000 (55th Round), the number of persons living below the poverty line, for the State of Uttar Pradesh were 53 million, of which 41.2 million were in rural areas and 11.8 million were in urban areas, and at All India level, there were 260.2 million persons estimated to be living below the poverty line of which 193.2 million were in rural areas and 67.0 million were in urban areas.

(b) and (c) At the All India level, the Tenth Five Year Plan period (2002-07) has set a target for reduction of poverty by 5 percentage points by 2007 and by 15 percentage points by 2012. There is no such target set for the State of Uttar Pradesh. An assessment of the performance in the Tenth Plan period will be possible only when the results of the 61st Round for the year 2004-05 are received from the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO).

Scarcity of drinking water in Gujarat

3117. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute crisis in North and Central Gujarat and several districts of Saurashtra because of scarcity for drinking water; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) Based on the Comprehensive Action Plan, 1999 and the subsequent coverage reported

by the Government of Gujarat, out of the 30,269 rural habitations in the State, 30,233 have been fully covered with drinking water supply schemes to provide 40 litre per capita per day (Ipcd), and the remaining 36 habitations partially covered to provide 10-40 Ipcd drinking water supply. However, the coverage position is dynamic and due to erratic rainfalls, some parts of the State face scarcity of drinking water, particularly during summer season. Based on the detailed assessment of the rainfall and its impact on drinking water supply, Government of Gujarat has notified 626 village in 8 talukas of Kutch, Banaskantha and Sabarkantha districts as semi-scarcity affected villages.

(b) Government of Gujarat has prepared a Master Plan for taking measures like drilling and developing additional tube-wells, rejuvenation of existing water supply schemes and supply of drinking water through tankers to tackle drinking water scarcity. Though drinking water is a State Subject, the Central Government is rendering financial and technical support to the State Governments, including Government of Gujarat, under a Centrally sponsored scheme, namely Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Funds allocated to the Government of Gujarat under different components of ARWSP during the current year (2005-2006) are as under:—

ARWSP (Normal)	Rs. 111.86 crore
ARWSP (DDP)	Rs. 11.53 crore
ARWSP (Swajaldhara)	Rs. 16.29 crore

Financial assistance for export of handicrafts

3118. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government extend financial assistance to the State Governments for promotion of export of handicrafts;

(b) if so, the details of amount sanctioned during the last three years and proposed to be sanctioned during the next three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(c) whether Government of Karnataka has requested for sanction of financial assistance for promotion of export of handicrafts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Centre's reaction thereto?